



DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

DDI-2002-70

5 AUG 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: Proposal to Relieve NPIC Workload

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[Redacted] Because of the imminence and magnitude of this forecast, every effort should be made to seek ways to diminish the impact of the anticipated workload on NPIC, CIA, DIA, and the service scientific and technical organizations under the National Tasking Plan.

2. A proposal was received recently from Headquarters, Strategic Air Command which may not only reduce the workload on the National Photographic Interpretation Center, but would make image-derived information available to the national intelligence community and the DoD appreciably sooner than would otherwise be the case. SAC proposes that consideration be given to reassigning certain national first and/or second phase reporting responsibilities to the 544th Aerospace Reconnaissance Technical Wing. As you know, the 544th ARTW, a SAC resource, provides direct intelligence support to SAC and the Joint Strategic Target Planning Staff in the preparation of the National Strategic Target List and the Single Integrated Operational Plan.

3. In light of present and impending budgetary constraints, the SAC proposal to assume some national reporting responsibility merits serious consideration by our respective staffs. If you agree, it would be useful for our staffs to get together and pursue the matter in detail, with the objective of identifying how together we can best cope with the challenge that lies immediately ahead. My action officer is [Redacted]

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D. V. BENNETT
Lieutenant General, USA
Director

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First and Second Phase Exploitation of [redacted] Missions

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1. Reference is made to the following documents:

a. [redacted] dated January 1967, entitled: "The National Tasking Plan for the Exploitation of Multi-Sensor Imagery."

b. DIAM 57-5 dated 11 March 1968, entitled: "DoD. Exploitation of Multi-Sensor Imagery (U)."

2. By reference a, the NPIC was designated as the organization responsible for first and second phase exploitation of [redacted] photography in response to requirements expressed by the national intelligence community. By Chapter I of reference b., SAC has been tasked to "conduct second-phase interpretation on designated USIB-tasks penetration missions to provide timely support to the Joint Strategic Target Planning Staff." This responsibility, of course, also relates to [redacted] photography. As a great many of the national objectives expressed through COMIREX are the same as those which require exploitation in direct support of the Joint Strategic Target Planning Staff (JSTPS), there is presently considerable duplication of effort between NPIC and SAC during [redacted] mission exploitation.

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3. Many of the objectives which are readout by both NPIC and SAC are of sufficient priority to require first-phase exploitation by NPIC immediately upon receipt of the film, and subsequent examination by SAC during second-phase. There are, however, one or more categories of installations of lesser priority which are usually readout by NPIC only during second-phase exploitation and, therefore, are also readout by SAC during approximately the same time frame. SA-2 SAM sites and certain electronic installations are examples of the type objective which, it would seem, do not require readout by both organizations on every mission.

4. Whereas, it is evident that the intelligence oriented readout by NPIC cannot necessarily satisfy the essential in-depth requirements related to JSTPS targeting, it may well be possible to satisfy the national level intelligence needs by utilization [redacted]

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solely of the SAC readout. If duplication between the exploitation efforts of NPIC and SAC could thus be reduced, certain of the NPIC resources would be freed to concentrate on other areas of support to finished intelligence production, and SAC would perhaps benefit from the widespread dissemination and use of readout which must be accomplished in any case to satisfy the unique requirements of the JSTPS. It must be recognized, however, that acceptance of the SAC readout by the national intelligence community would be dependent upon certain assurances as to the extent and timeliness of exploitation, and would require strict adherence to the standard format used for electrical transmission of second-phase reports.

5. Although designation of SAC rather than NPIC as the agency responsible for satisfaction of COMIREX second-phase requirements for certain types of objectives would require modification to the National Tasking Plan (reference a.), it would perhaps constitute a further step toward elimination of unnecessary duplication of effort. We realize that a major shift in reporting responsibility cannot be accomplished overnight, and that present resource levels will weigh heavily on any decision of this nature. It would seem advisable, however, to undertake immediate planning directed toward further efficiency in the overall U.S. photo exploitation effort which is extensive at present, and will undoubtedly reach even greater proportions.

[Redacted] It is requested that DIAAP explore the feasibility of SAC accepting the national level second-phase reporting responsibility for specific types of objectives, and provide us your views with respect to the above comments.

[Redacted]

Colonel, USAF
Chief, Special Activities Office

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